

CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE

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June 29, 1998

ENDORSERS

Bay Area Action Baylands Conservation Committee California Hawking Club, Inc. California Waterfowl Association California Wildlife Federation Citizens for a Better Environment Committee for Green Foothills Defenders of Wildlife East Bay Green Alliance Federation of Fly Fishers Friends of Charleston Slough Friends of Redwood City Golden Gate Audubon Society Green Belt Alliance League of Women Voters of the Eden Area League of Women Voters of the Fremont Area League of Women Voters of Palo Alto League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club Madrone Audubon Society Marin Audubon Society Mission Creek Conservancy Mono Lake Committee Mount Diablo Audubon Society Napa-Solano Audubon Society Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter North Bay Wetlands Coalition Ohlone Audubon Society Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation Planning and Conservation League San Francisco Bay Chapter, Sierra Club Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Save San Francisco Bay Association Sequoia Audubon Society South Bay Wetlands Coalition Sportsmen for Equal Access Tri-City Ecology Center **Trout Unlimited** United Anglers of California Urban Creeks Council

AFFILIATES

Citizens for Alameda's Last Marshlands Citizens for Open Space in Alvarado Friends of Foster City Save Our South Bay Wetlands Save Wetlands in Mayhews

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Lester Snow, Executive Director CalFed Bay Delta Program 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

Our interest in the health of South Francisco Bay waters and wetlands is long-standing. We formed a committee in 1968 that led to the establishment of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and then in 1988 we returned to Congress and successfully lobbied for doubling the size of the Refuge to 40,000 acres.

Since then we have worked constantly to ensure the quality of the Bay's waters, and to see all remaining wetlands placed within the Refuge. It is with that background that we feel it appropriate that we comment on the current CalFed alternatives.

First, a new alternative must be developed. The ones submitted are pretty much business as usual because they do not make conservation of water at all levels the mainstay of all future planning. We are particularly interested in emphasis on innovative agricultural water distribution and use methods. Ground water storage may be much more efficient than surface storage.

It is unconscionable with the predicted increase in population for California to look at old fashioned dam and canal solutions when, if the past is a way to predict the future, they will prove futile in the long run. We are especially leery of protestations that new techniques will make a peripheral canal acceptable.

We have the feeling from documents submitted that the South Bay is a step child in the process. We have the most sluggish tides and very great possibility that we are most severely affected by contaminants that enter the Bay upstream.

We urge further consideration of this most important issue facing us.

Yours sincerely,

Flauce M. LaRiviere

Florence M. LaRiviere

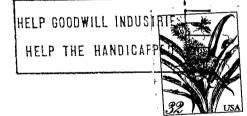
Chairwoman

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